THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) At present, there is no shortage of LPG in Northern India including Delhi. However, there was slight dislocation of LPG supply in various parts of the country in March, 2003 due to the "work to rule" agitation by unions of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and strike of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) employees.

Losses due to Militant Attacks in Assam

†3345. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss incurred from petroleum products received from Assam's refineries or the refined products crude being transported through pipelines during the last three years on account of militant activities in Assam alongwith the year-wise details thereof;

(b) the details of steps taken by the Government to mitigate the losses increased on account of militant activities; and

(c) the number of persons killed and injured in petroleum industry during the last three years due to militant activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The information is given at Statement (*See below*):

(b) The security of oil installations in Assam is looked after by the security staff of the Oil Companies, Central Industrial Security Force and Assam Police. The security status is reviewed on a regular basis in coordination with the State Government. After the recent incident of 7th/8th March, 2003, security has been further tightened. The State Government have also been requested to review the security of oil installations in the State in the light of the incident.

(c) During the last three years, no loss of life or injury has been reported in the petroleum industry due to the militant activities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Statement

Attempts of sabotage by suspected terrorists/militants made during the last three years

Oil India Limited (OIL)

(i) Attempt of Sabotage on crude oil trunk pipeline:

On 5th April, 2002 at about 1030 hours, an information was received of a bomb blast at Village Arikuchi near Nalbari in Assam near OIL's Pipeline Right of way (RoW). On inspection it was observed that there was a dent inward by about 2 cm deep for about 60 cm long at PLKM 458, about 50 Kms. away from Guwahati. The coat and wrap at the location was affected, which was replaced on 8.4.2002.

(ii) Blowing up of Pipeline:

On 8.3.2003 at 0120 hrs., two pipelines (200 mm and 250 mm dia) connected to main gas distribution grid in OIL's oilfield in Upper Assam, Near Duliajan were blown up by using explosives. It was an act of sabotage, as flexible wires/battery were found in the vicinity of the site. Because of this blast, there was profuse leakage of gas and fire broke out. The leakage was controlled immediately and also the fire was extinguished within 2.1/ 2 hrs.

It may be noted that the supplies of crude oil to the refineries were not affected by any of the incidents. In the first incident, though, there was no direct loss, the repairing cost was incurred by OIL. In the second incident, the estimated loss to the company was Rs. 25 lakhs. The Company's insurance policy provides coverage for loss arising out of any terrorist activities.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

On 7th March, 2003, at around 2350 hours, suspected militants fired ammunition at a tank containing 4,500 Kilolitres of Petrol at Digboi refinery of IOCL. As a result, fire broke out in the tank. IOCL suffered an estimated loss of Rs. 14.47 crore, which is covered by insurance.